Another programme on similar lines is the Desert Development Programme (DDP) mainly for dry deserts of West Rajasthan and c°ld deserts of Jammu *St* Kashmir.

In order to harvest best yields in good years and mitigate: the effects of drought in below normal rainfall years, several programmes are in operation. They are: —

(i) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture — a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 99 districts in 16 States.

(ii) World Bank funded Rainfed Farming Project in four States (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh).

(iii) World Bank funded Kandi Watershed and Area Development Project in Punjab.

In order to provide rural employment for better purchasing power and for creating durable assets to alleviate the problems of drought, other programmes have been taken up. They are: —

(i) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP).

(ii) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP).

(iii) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

Further to improve the productivity of rainfed areas and to bring back ecological balance other programmes have been taken up. They are: —

(i) Soil Conservation in the Catchment Areas of the River Valley Projects.

(ii) Ravine Reclamation in Da-coity Prone Areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) Control of Shifting Cultivation in Northern States and in Oris-sa and Andhra Pradesh,

(iv) World Bank funded Himalayan Watershed Management Project in Uttar Pradesh.

(v) Watershed Development under State Sector alongwith the Soil Conservation Programme.

Assistance 0/ *Scientific Organisations:* That improved cropping systems matching with the assured moisture availability periods as calculated from the rainfall data would provide insulation against crop failures due to moisture stress to a great extent has been proved by the ICAR system through their All-India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA) and the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agricultural (CRIDA) and the International Crop Research Institute for semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Coupled with the on-f arm soil and water conservation practices developed by the ICAR's Central Soil and Water Conservation Reserach and Training Institute (CSWCR *&* TI), these techniques have been used in the various schemes formulated by the Government of India.

Further, the alternate crop strategies and the improved cropping systems with suitable crop varieties developed by the above organisations are in use in the systems developed for Area Development Programmes on Watershed Basis in Rainfed areas which will to a great extent mitigate the negative impact of droughts on the rural population.

Strategy to control the prices of Vanaspati and Vegetable Oils

*106. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) the composite strategy employed to bring down the prices of vanaspati and edible vegetable oils;

(h) the effect of selective credit controls on the market prices;

(c) the details of import of oilseeds and oil during the past and the next six months—month-wise; and

(d) the allocation of imported oil to vanaspati units during the past and the coming six months?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (d) Besides taking various measures to increase the production of oilseeds, the important measures taken by Government are: —

1. Increased allocation of imported oils to the State Governmente for Public distribution System and to Vanaspati units;

2. Intensive dehoarding operations;

31 Reduction in the stock limit of edible oilseeds/oils, restriction in transactions between two wholesalers and time limit within which stocks are to be sold;

4. Voluntary price discipline in respect of Vanaspati;

5. Decision to release imported edible oils in the market by auction.

It is too early to assess the effect of credit control which is a preventive measure. However, this measure has the effect of curbing excessive purchases.

A statement giving the details of import of oils and allocation of imported oils to the Vanaspati units during the past six months is annexed: (See below)

Import of edible oils and allocation *to* be made t_0 Vanaspati industry during the next six months will depend on various factors like availability and prices of indigenous oils.

At present, oilseeds are not being imported. However, there is a proposal to import, on aid basis, 5 lakh tonnes of oilseeds to be canalised through National Dairy Development Board.

Statement

Period	Imported oil allotted to Vanaspati Units	Quantity of Edible Oil imported
	(In MTs)	(in MTs)
May, 1987	37,006.5	86,507
June 1987	39,265.0	93,070
July, 1987	54,420.0	1,39,301
August, 1987	63,463 5	1,59,106
September, 1987	70,761.0	2,04,527
October, 1987	72 995.0	2,95,680